

$$\int_a^b \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int_a^b x(t) dt, \int_a^b y(t) dt, \int_a^b z(t) dt \right\rangle$$

for space curve  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$

Arc length

The arc length of a curve should be computable by

1. approximate curve by straight line segments
  2. length of each segment adds to approximate length of curve.
- limit these, using more and more line segments

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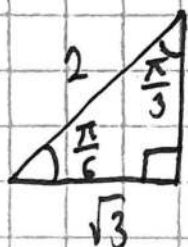
Ex: Compute the tangent line for  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 4\cos(2t) \rangle$  at  $(\sqrt{3}, 1, 2)$ .

Sol:  $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -2\sin(t), 2\cos(t), -8\sin(2t) \rangle$

Need  $t$  for the point  $(\sqrt{3}, 1, 2)$

$$\begin{cases} 2\cos(t) = \sqrt{3} \\ 2\sin(t) = 1 \\ 4\cos(2t) = 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \cos(t) = \sqrt{3}/2 \\ \sin(t) = 1/2 \\ \cos(2t) = 1/2 \end{cases} \quad t = \frac{\pi}{6} + 2k\pi$$

Check:  $\cos\left(2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{2}$



$\therefore$  The tangent vector at the point given is  
 $\vec{r}'(\pi/6) = \langle -2\sin(\pi/6), 2\cos(\pi/6), -8\sin(2 \cdot \pi/6) \rangle$   
 $= \langle -1, \sqrt{3}, -4\sqrt{3} \rangle$

$\therefore$  The tangent has vector equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{u}(t) &= \vec{p} + t\vec{r}'(\pi/6) = \langle \sqrt{3}, 1, 2 \rangle + t\langle -1, \sqrt{3}, -4\sqrt{3} \rangle \\ &= \langle \sqrt{3}-t, 1+\sqrt{3}t, 2-4\sqrt{3}t \rangle \end{aligned}$$

### Section: 13. Arc length.

Recall: the arc length of space curve  $\vec{r}(t)$  between times  $t=a$  and  $b$  is

$$s = \int_a^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$$



$\vec{r}(t)$  is a space curve in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle x'(t), y'(t), z'(t) \rangle$$

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2}$$

for a plane curve (like in Calc II)

arc length  $\rightarrow s = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$

Ex. Find the arc length of  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos(t), \sin(t), \ln(\cos(t)) \rangle$  in  $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$

Sol. Arc length has formula:  $s = \int_a^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$

now  $a=0$  and  $b=\pi/4$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin(t), \cos(t), \frac{-\sin(t)}{\cos(t)} \rangle$$

$$= \langle -\sin(t), \cos(t), -\tan(t) \rangle$$

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(-\sin(t))^2 + (\cos(t))^2 + (-\tan(t))^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\sin^2(t) + \cos^2(t) + \tan^2(t)}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 + \tan^2(t)}$$

$$= \sqrt{\sec^2(t)} = |\sec(t)| = \sec(t) \text{ on } 0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$$

$$S = \int_{t=a}^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$$

$$= \int_{t=0}^{\pi/4} \sec(t) dt$$

$$= \ln|\sqrt{2}+1| - \ln|1+0|$$

$$= \ln(1+\sqrt{2})$$

$$\left[ \ln|\sec(t) + \tan(t)| \right]_{t=0}^{\pi/4}$$

$$\ln|\sec(\frac{\pi}{4}) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{4})| - \ln|\sec(0) + \tan(0)|$$

Ex. Compute the arc length of  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos(t), \sin(t), 2t \rangle$   
on  $\frac{\pi}{3} \leq t \leq \pi$

Sol:  $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin(t), \cos(t), 2 \rangle$

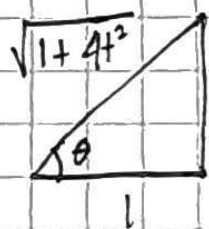
$$\therefore |\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(-\sin(t))^2 + (\cos(t))^2 + 2^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\sin^2(t) + \cos^2(t) + 4}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 + 4}$$

$$a = \frac{\pi}{3} \quad \therefore S = \int_{t=a}^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$$

$$b = \pi \quad t=a$$



$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{2t}{1}$$

$$\sec(\theta) = \frac{\sqrt{1+4t^2}}{1}$$

$$\sec^2(\theta) d\theta = 2 dt$$

$$S = \int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \sqrt{1+4t^2} dt = \int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1+4t^2} 2 dt$$

$$\int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} \sec(\theta) \sec^2(\theta) d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \sec(\theta) (1 + \tan^2(\theta)) d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \sec(\theta) d\theta + \int_{t=\pi/3}^{\pi} \sec(\theta) \tan^2(\theta) d\theta \right)$$

to compute  $\int \sec(\theta) \tan^2(\theta) d\theta = \sec(\theta) \tan(\theta) - \int \sec(\theta) d\theta$

$$u = \tan(\theta) \quad dv = \sec(\theta) \tan(\theta) d\theta$$

$$du = \sec^2(\theta) d\theta \quad v = \sec(\theta)$$

$$\therefore \int \sec^3(\theta) d\theta$$

$$= \int \sec(\theta) d\theta + \sec(\theta) \tan(\theta)$$

$$- \int \sec^3(\theta) d\theta$$

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du$$

$$\therefore 2 \int \sec^3(\theta) d\theta = \ln|\sec(\theta) + \tan(\theta)| + \sec(\theta)\tan(\theta)$$

$$\text{Finally: } s = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\pi} \sec^3(\theta) d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left[ \ln|\sec(\theta) + \tan(\theta)| + \sec(\theta)\tan(\theta) \right]_{t=\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\pi}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left[ \ln|\sqrt{1+4t^2} + 2t| + \sqrt{1+4t^2} \cdot 2t \right]_{t=\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\pi}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left( \ln|\sqrt{1+4\pi^2} + 2\pi| + 2\pi\sqrt{1+4\pi^2} \right.$$

$$\left. - \ln\left|\sqrt{1+\frac{4}{9}\pi^2} + \frac{2}{3}\pi\right| + \frac{2}{3}\pi\sqrt{1+\frac{4}{9}\pi^2} \right)$$

The arc length is the "most natural parameter" for a curve.

In particular if we make a parameterization of the curve with arc length  $s$  at time  $s$  (measured from the point), then that parameterization has unit speed.

Example next time...

